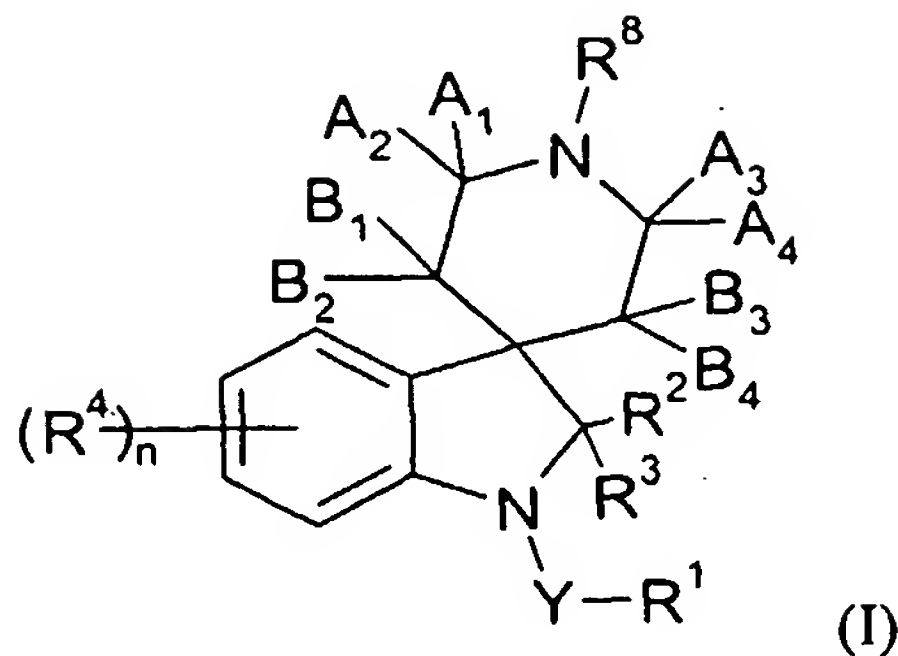


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula I



wherein Y is a single bond, C=O, C=S or S(O)_m where m is 0, 1 or 2; R¹ is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkoxy, optionally substituted alkylcarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, optionally substituted alkylaminocarbonyl, optionally substituted dialkylaminocarbonyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted alkoxy, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted heterocycloxy, cyano, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted cycloalkenyl, formyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted alkylthio, NO or NR¹³R¹⁴ where R¹³ and R¹⁴ are independently hydrogen, COR¹⁵, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl or R¹³ and R¹⁴ together with the N atom to which they are attached form a group -N=C(R¹⁶)-NR¹⁷R¹⁸; R¹⁵ is H, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkoxy, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aryloxy optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy or NR¹⁹R²⁰; R¹⁶, R¹⁷ and R¹⁸ are each independently H or lower alkyl; R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are independently optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted heteroaryl; R² and R³ are independently hydrogen, halogen, cyano, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkoxy or optionally substituted aryl;

each R^4 is independently halogen, nitro, cyano, optionally substituted C_{1-8} alkyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynyl, optionally substituted alkoxycarbonyl, optionally substituted alkylcarbonyl, optionally substituted alkylaminocarbonyl, optionally substituted dialkylaminocarbonyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted alkoxy, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted alkylthio or $R^{21}R^{22}N$ where R^{21} and R^{22} are, independently, hydrogen, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{3-6} alkenyl, C_{3-6} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl(C_{1-4})alkyl, C_{2-6} haloalkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl or R^{21} and R^{22} together with the N atom to which they are attached form a five, six or seven-membered heterocyclic ring which may contain one or two further heteroatoms selected from O, N or S and which may be optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-6} alkyl groups, or 2 adjacent groups R^4 together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a 4, 5, 6, or 7 membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring which may be optionally substituted by halogen; n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R^8 is optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted alkynyl, optionally substituted cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted alkoxy, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted alkoxycarbonyl, optionally substituted alkylcarbonyl or optionally substituted alkenylcarbonyl;

$A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4, B_1, B_2, B_3$ and B_4 are independently hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, cyano, optionally substituted C_{1-8} alkyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkenyl, optionally substituted C_{2-6} alkynyl, optionally substituted alkoxycarbonyl, optionally substituted alkylcarbonyl, optionally substituted alkylaminocarbonyl, optionally substituted dialkylaminocarbonyl, optionally substituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl, optionally substituted alkoxy, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted heteroaryloxy, optionally substituted alkylthio, optionally substituted arylthio or $R^{23}R^{24}N$ where R^{23} and R^{24} are, independently, hydrogen, C_{1-8} alkyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{3-6} alkenyl, C_{3-6} alkynyl, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl(C_{1-4})alkyl, C_{2-6} haloalkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy(C_{1-6})alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxycarbonyl or R^{23} and R^{24} together with the N atom to which they are

attached form a five, six or seven-membered heterocyclic ring which may contain one or two further heteroatoms selected from O, N or S and which may be optionally substituted by one or two C₁₋₆ alkyl groups,

or A₁ and A₂ together are =O,

5 or A₃ and A₄ together are =O,

or B₁ and B₂ together are =O,

or B₃ and B₄ together are =O,

or A₁ together with B₁ is a bond,

or A₃ together with B₃ is a bond,

10 or A₁ together with A₂ form with the carbon to which they are bound a three- to seven-membered ring, and may be saturated or unsaturated, and that may contain one or two hetero atoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S, and which may be optionally substituted by one or two C₁₋₆ alkyl groups;

or A₁ together with B₁ form with the carbon to which they are bound a three- to
15 seven-membered ring, and may be saturated or unsaturated, and that may contain one or two hetero atoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S, and which may be optionally substituted by one or two C₁₋₆ alkyl groups;

or B₁ together with B₂ form with the carbon to which they are bound a three- to
20 seven-membered ring, and may be saturated or unsaturated, and that may contain one or two hetero atoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S, and which may be optionally substituted by one or two C₁₋₆ alkyl groups;

or A₁ together with A₃ form a group -CH₂-, -CH=CH- or -CH₂CH₂;

or B₁ together with B₃ form a group -CH₂-, -CH=CH- or -CH₂CH₂;

or salts or N-oxides thereof provided that when B₁, B₂, B₃ and B₄ are all H, either
25 both A₁ and A₂ are different from H or both A₃ and A₄ are different from H.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein Y is a single bond or C=O.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein R² and R³ are each
30 independently hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or cyano.

4. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein R¹ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ cyanoalkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl(C₁₋₄)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl (wherein the heteroaryl group may be optionally substituted by halo, nitro, cyano, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonyl, or two adjacent positions on the heteroaryl system may be cyclised to form a 5, 6 or 7 membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring, itself optionally substituted with halogen), aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl (wherein the aryl group may be optionally substituted by halo, nitro, cyano, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonyl, or two adjacent positions on the aryl system may be cyclised to form a 5, 6 or 7 membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring, itself optionally substituted with halogen), C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino(C₁₋₆)alkyl, aryl (which may be optionally substituted by halo, nitro, cyano, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonyl, or two adjacent positions on the aryl system may be cyclised to form a 5, 6 or 7 membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring, itself optionally substituted with halogen), heteroaryl (which may be optionally substituted by halo, nitro, cyano, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonyl, or two adjacent positions on the heteroaryl system may be cyclised to form a 5, 6 or 7 membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring, itself optionally substituted with halogen), C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, phenoxy (wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkoxy, CN, NO₂, aryl, heteroaryl, amino or dialkylamino), heteroaryloxy (optionally substituted by halo, nitro, cyano, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy), heterocyclyloxy (optionally substituted by halo, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy), cyano, C₂₋₆ alkenyl, C₂₋₆ alkynyl, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, C₅₋₇ cycloalkenyl, heterocyclyl (optionally substituted by halo, nitro, cyano, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy), C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ haloalkylthio or NR¹³R¹⁴ where R¹³ and R¹⁴ are independently

hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, phenyl (which may be optionally substituted by halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkoxy, CN, NO₂, aryl, heteroaryl, amino, dialkylamino or C₁₋₄ alkoxycarbonyl), phenyl (C₁₋₆)alkyl (wherein the phenyl group may be optionally substituted by

5 halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkoxy, CN, NO₂, aryl, heteroaryl, amino, dialkylamino, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, or two adjacent positions on the phenyl ring may be cyclised to form a 5, 6 or 7 membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring, itself optionally substituted with halogen), heteroaryl (C₁₋₆)alkyl (wherein the heteroaryl group may be optionally substituted by halo, nitro,

10 cyano, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinyl, C₁₋₆ alkylthio, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, arylcarbonyl, or two adjacent positions on the heteroaryl system may be cyclised to form a 5, 6 or 7 membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring, itself optionally substituted with halogen) or heteroaryl (which may be optionally substituted by halo,

15 nitro, cyano, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, C₁₋₄ alkoxycarbonyl C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonylamino, phenyloxycarbonylamino (wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkoxy, CN, NO₂, aryl, heteroaryl, amino or dialkylamino), amino, C₁₋₆ alkylamino or phenylamino (wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted

20 halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkoxy, CN, NO₂, aryl, heteroaryl, amino or dialkylamino)).

5. A compound according to any preceeding claim wherein each R⁴ is independently halogen, cyano, C₁₋₈ alkyl, C₁₋₈ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ cyanoalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₅₋₆ cycloalkenyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₃₋₆ alkenyloxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₃₋₆ alkynyloxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, aryloxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ carboxyalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkenylcarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkynylcarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₃₋₆ alkenyloxycarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₃₋₆ alkynyloxycarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, aryloxycarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkylthio(C₁₋₆)alkyl,
- 25 C₁₋₆ alkylsulfinyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkylsulfonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, aminocarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminocarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, phenyl(C₁₋₄)alkyl (wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by halogen, C₁₋₄
- 30

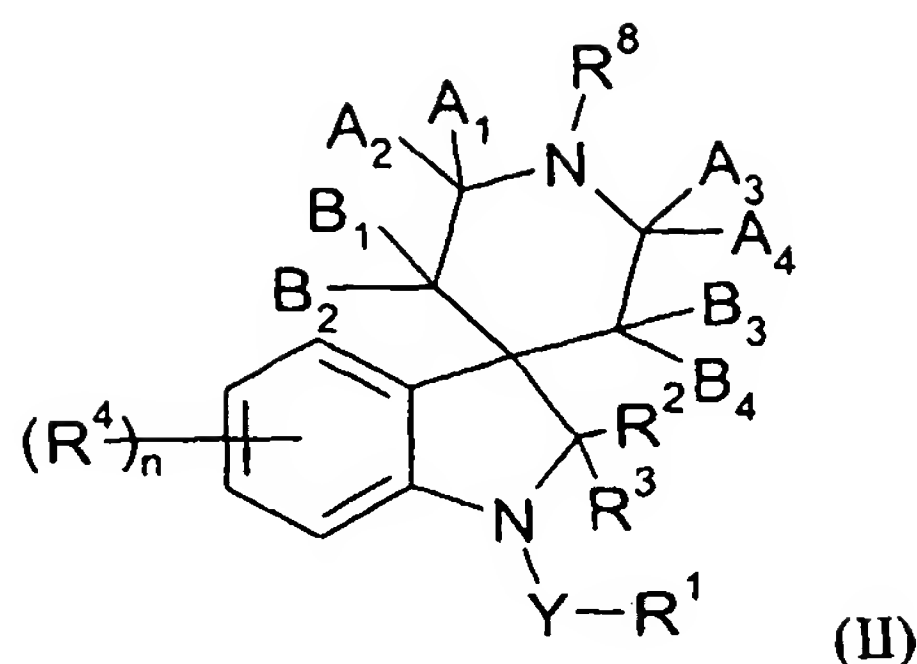
alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkoxy, CN, NO₂, aryl, heteroaryl, amino or dialkylamino), heteroaryl(C₁₋₄)alkyl (wherein the heteroaryl group is optionally substituted by halo, nitro, cyano, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy), heterocyclyl(C₁₋₄)alkyl (wherein the heterocyclyl group is optionally substituted by halo, nitro, cyano, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy), C₂₋₆ alkenyl, aminocarbonyl(C₂₋₆)alkenyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonyl(C₂₋₆)alkenyl, di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminocarbonyl(C₂₋₆)alkenyl, phenyl(C₂₋₄)-alkenyl, (wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkoxy, CN, NO₂, aryl, heteroaryl, amino or dialkylamino), C₂₋₆ alkynyl, trimethylsilyl(C₂₋₆)alkynyl, aminocarbonyl(C₂₋₆)alkynyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonyl(C₂₋₆)alkynyl, di(C₁₋₆)alkylaminocarbonyl(C₂₋₆)alkynyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₃₋₇ halocycloalkyl, C₃₋₇ cyanocycloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkyl(C₃₋₇)-cycloalkyl, C₁₋₃ alkyl(C₃₋₇)halocycloalkyl, phenyl (optionally substituted by halogen, C₁₋₄ alkyl, C₁₋₄ alkoxy, C₁₋₄ haloalkyl, C₁₋₄ haloalkoxy, CN, NO₂, aryl, heteroaryl, amino or dialkylamino), heteroaryl (optionally substituted by halo, nitro, cyano, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy), heterocyclyl (wherein the heterocyclyl group is optionally substituted by halo, nitro, cyano, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy), or 2 adjacent groups R⁴ together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a 4, 5, 6 or 7 membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring which may be optionally substituted by halogen, C₁₋₈ alkoxy, C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy, phenoxy (optionally substituted by halo, nitro, cyano, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy), heteroaryloxy (optionally substituted by halo, nitro, cyano, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or C₁₋₆ haloalkoxy), C₁₋₈ alkylthio or R¹⁹R²⁰N where R¹⁹ and R²⁰ are, independently, hydrogen, C₁₋₈ alkyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₃₋₆ alkenyl, C₃₋₆ alkynyl, C₂₋₆ haloalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl or R¹⁹ and R²⁰ together with the N atom to which they are attached form a five, six or seven-membered heterocyclic ring which may contain one or two further heteroatoms selected from O, N or S and which may be optionally substituted by one or two C₁₋₆ alkyl groups; and n is 0, 1, 2 or 3.

6. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein R⁸ is C₁₋₁₀ alkyl, C₁₋₁₀ haloalkyl, aryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl (wherein the aryl group is optionally substituted by halogen,

C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, CN, NO_2 , aryl, heteroaryl, amino or dialkylamino), heteroaryl(C_{1-6})alkyl (wherein the heteroaryl group is optionally substituted by halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, CN, NO_2 , aryl, heteroaryl, amino or dialkylamino), arylcarbonyl-(C_{1-6})alkyl (wherein the aryl group may be optionally substituted by halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, CN, NO_2 , aryl, heteroaryl, amino or dialkylamino and the alkyl group may be optionally substituted by aryl), C_{2-8} alkenyl, C_{2-8} haloalkenyl, aryl(C_{2-6})-alkenyl (wherein the aryl group is optionally substituted by halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, CN, NO_2 , aryl, heteroaryl, amino or dialkylamino, C_{1-6} alkoxy carbonyl, or two adjacent substituents can cyclise to form a 5, 6 or 7 membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring), heteroaryl(C_{2-6})-alkenyl (wherein the heteroaryl group is optionally substituted by halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, CN, NO_2 , aryl, heteroaryl, amino or dialkylamino, C_{1-6} alkoxy carbonyl, or two adjacent substituents can cyclise to form a 5, 6 or 7 membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring), C_{2-6} alkynyl, phenyl(C_{2-6})alkynyl (wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted by halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, CN, NO_2 , aryl, heteroaryl, amino or dialkylamino), C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy carbonyl, C_{1-6} alkylcarbonyl, C_{1-6} haloalkylcarbonyl or aryl(C_{2-6})alkenylcarbonyl (wherein the aryl group may be optionally substituted by halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, C_{1-4} haloalkyl, C_{1-4} haloalkoxy, CN, NO_2 , aryl, heteroaryl, amino or dialkylamino), or $-C(R^{51})(R^{52})-[CR^{53}=CR^{54}]_z-R^{55}$ where z is 1 or 2, R^{51} and R^{52} are each independently H, halo or C_{1-2} alkyl, R^{53} and R^{54} are each independently H, halogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or C_{1-4} haloalkyl and R^{55} is optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted heteroaryl.

7. A compound according to any preceding claim wherein A_1 , A_2 , A_3 , A_4 , B_1 , B_2 , B_3 and B_4 are independently each hydrogen, halo, cyano, C_{1-3} alkyl, hydroxy or two groups attached to the same carbon atom together with the carbon atom form a carbonyl group.

8. A compound of formula (II)



wherein Y, n, R¹, R², R³, R⁴, A₁, A₂, A₃, A₄, B₁, B₂, B₃ and B₄ are as defined in claim 1 and R⁸ is hydrogen or *tert*-butoxycarbonyl.

5

9. An insecticidal acaricidal and nematicidal composition comprising an insecticidally, acaricidally or nematicidally effective amount of a compound of formula I as defined in claim 1.

10. A method of combating and controlling insects, acarines, nematodes or molluscs which comprises applying to a pest, to a locus of a pest, or to a plant susceptible to attack by a pest an insecticidally, acaricidally, nematicidally or molluscicidally effective amount of a compound of formula I.